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Civil Engineering and  
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101 Princess Margaret Road,  
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31 May 2012

Editor of the Guardian

Dear Editor,

Hong Kong plan to create 25 islands threatens wildlife, say protesters

I refer to the captioned article published on 27 May 2012 and wish to put the record straight for the following issues:

- (i) The author of the article approached the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Government) in late April for an interview in order to better understand the physical land-creation process and the challenges in making new land. At that time, the author was fully aware that the Government was still analysing the views/comments collected during a public engagement (PE) exercise completed in end March for a land supply strategy including reclamation. We did make it very clear to the author that it would be premature to speak/speculate on the conclusion of the PE exercise or the future land supply policy.
- (ii) Against the above background, CEDD scheduled an interview for 16 May during which our chief engineer managing an on-going reclamation project in Victoria Harbour briefed the author on the engineering aspects and challenges of the Central and Wan Chai Reclamation project as well as the comparison between conventional reclamation methods and the latest non-dredge technology currently used in another government project. We are indeed astonished by the statement (in the seventh paragraph of your article) that CEDD refused to be interviewed. This is factually not correct. During the one-and-a-half-hour interview, CEDD had all along provided the necessary support to facilitate the author preparing the article.

Frankly, we are very disappointed that the informative knowledge and experience shared by our chief engineer were totally ignored and not reported in the article at all.

- (iii) Lastly, the statement (in the third paragraph of your article) that "the planners talk of 25 islands and waterfront extensions of hundreds of hectares each" is also factually incorrect.

I wish you will take note of the above and make the necessary clarifications.

Yours faithfully,

(Robert Tsoi)  
Senior Engineer / Media Communications  
Civil Engineering and Development Department

c.c. Ms Vaudine England